

Canine rescue successful



Parowan resident Bob Giles got his dog, Buster, back safe and sound with the help of Iron County Search and Rescue after the animal fell approximately 30 feet down a mine shaft Wednesday in the Red Hills just West of Parowan. NUR KAUSAR / DAILY NEWS

By Nur Kausar

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CEDAR CITY — Getting ready to save a dog that's fallen down a mine shaft sounds scary, but rescue crew members like Corbin Allred said they jump at the chance to put their skills to use and save a life.

Buster, Parowan resident Bob Giles' playful black mutt, fell down a 30-foot hole, possibly an old mine shaft, in the Parowan red hills west of town Wednesday morning while chasing a rabbit.

Giles and members of the Utah Geological Survey had been in the area, located off a dirt road at the Parowan Gap, when Buster shot off running and

didn't see the hole, Giles said.

"By the time he saw (the hole) it was too late, he was already committed to sliding down in there, and the rocks were so loose, he couldn't stop himself from sliding," Giles said, watching while the rescue crew prepared to send Allred into the hole to retrieve Buster.

Within half an hour of harnessing, Iron County Search and Rescue members slowly pulled Allred and the dog out of the deep hole, rocks sliding, Giles helping alongside the crew by tugging the rope back.

"Are you the one who saved him?" Giles asked Allred with a huge grin as the crew released Buster and watched him run, uninjured, around his rescu-

ers. "I'm so, so grateful for all of you for saving him."

Iron County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jeremy Holm said it's the sheriff's call on how and who responds. The 20-person rescue crew started more than three years ago, and has responded to similar calls across the county, including the iron mines and Cedar Mountain.

In this instance, the crew used an Arizona vortex, which is a large tripod from which the person rappelling can hang off for safety while crewmembers can hold onto the legs of the vortex and the person's ropes.

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Allred communicated to his crew from below, telling them Buster had a drink of water, was harnessed and ready to come up.

"The second I got down there he just crawled in between my legs and stayed there, his tail tucked. He immediately started kissing me," said Allred, who is a paramedic with Iron County Ambulance and formerly worked as a climbing instructor. The rescue crew recruited him when he moved to Iron County.

The crew discussed the rescue upon completion, going over their steps and what they could have done better.

"What was the biggest risk today? Rocks," said crewmember Trevor Pollock, asking other members what they would have done if an unconscious person instead of a healthy dog had fallen down that hole.



Harmony Valley Fire District volunteer Matt Goodman, Parowan resident Bob Giles and Iron County Sheriff's Office Deputy Jeremy Holm pull a rope that is harnessed to a rescuer and Giles' dog Buster, pulling the two out of a 30-foot hole Buster fell down Wednesday in the Parowan Red Hills. NUR KAUSAR / DAILY NEWS

Bill Lund with the Utah Geological Survey called for help when Buster fell and stayed through the entirety of the rescue, saying he would let the proper authorities know what hap-

pened that afternoon.

"We think this is BLM land, but we'll tell them and the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining so they can do something about it," Lund said on how to pre-

vent future falls in the area.

The hole did not have signs or ropes around it when the group entered the area, but the rescue crew taped it off in case people come by in the near future.